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GENERAL INFORMATION ON POLAND

Land and people

Indices illustrating the national economy as a whole

1. Until now, the presentation of the results of the national economy has been dominated by calculation based on the Material Product System (MPS) and the net/gross national income constituted the basic synthetic index. In calculations in conformity with the MPS rules, no consideration has been given to the results of activity in sectors performing services meeting the needs of the population and services of general interest, such as: education and training, culture and the arts, health and social welfare, physical training, tourism and recreation, housing, scientific research, public administration and justice, national defence and security, finance and insurance, social and political organizations, and trade unions.

2. Currently, the presentation of all economic activities is dominated by calculations in accordance with the rules of the system of national accounts (SNA) and the synthetic indices are the following:

Global value covering the value of products and services of the whole of the national economy during the period in question;

Indirect consumption, made up of material costs (without amortization of immobilized assets) and purchase costs of foreign intangible services of the whole of the national economy over the period in question;

Gross national product, i.e. the global value without indirect consumption.

3. The ratio between gross national product and gross national income (in per cent) for the years 1989 and 1990 was as follows:

	1989	1990
In current prices	110.4	112.6
In constant 1984 prices	112.8	114.6

Dynamics and structure of the gross national product

Year	Total	of which		
		industry	building	agriculture
Current prices - in interest				
1989	100.0	41.1	8.2	11.8
1990	100.0	46.1	8.7	7.1
Constant prices - in interest				
1989	100.0	41.0	9.6	12.2
1990	100.0	36.2	9.3	13.8
(Constant 1984 prices) 1980 = 100				
1985	99.1	95.6	82.7	118.2
1991	approx. 90.0	approx. 70.0		
Preceding year = 100				
1986	104.2	104.2	103.9	105.2
1987	102.0	103.2	102.1	93.2
1988	104.1	104.6	106.0	101.5
1989	100.2	97.9	99.7	101.0
1990	88.4	78.0	85.5	99.7
1991	approx. 93.0	approx. 85.0		

Prices

4. Until 1990, on the basis of information on the prices of the same representatives of consumer goods and services (from 1,500 to 1,700, depending on the year), two categories of indices have been calculated:

Retail price index for consumer goods and services;

Maintenance cost index.

5. The calculation has been based on different systems, namely:

For the retail price index - structure of the national value of sales (deliveries) of goods and services in commercial units;

For the maintenance cost index - structure of expenditure of households by socio-economic categories of the population for the purchase of consumer goods and services in groups according to SNA classification.

6. Since 1991, the two indices have been replaced by a single price index for consumer goods and services. The method of calculation is based on the structure of expenditure of groups of households on goods and services during the year preceding the year in question, resulting from the analysis of family budgets.

Price indices for goods and services

Specification	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
	(Preceding year = 100)					
Consumer goods and services	117.7	125.2	160.2	35.1	685.8	170.0
Goods	117.5	124.3	159.6	364.3	659.8	160.0
Foodstuffs	114.6	121.7	149.4	420.1	674.7	146.1
In retail trade	113.9	121.5	149.7	424.4	675.5	144.3
In catering trade	120.5	123.4	146.2	370.5	663.4	182.3
Alcoholic beverages	117.3	128.2	168.2	347.9	488.7	187.6
Goods other than foodstuffs	120.1	125.5	165.3	326.7	691.2	175.8
Services	119.4	130.9	163.5	270.9	880.7	231.5
Non-consumer goods and services	116.2	126.0	169.0	296.2	936.4	177.5
Goods	116.7	128.8	171.6	287.1	990.5	175.6
Services	114.8	117.9	161.2	324.5	760.8	179.4

EARNINGS

Personal earnings of the population

A. Nominal earnings

	1989		1990
	in billions of zlotys		1989 = 100
Total	68 174.5	359 435.8	527.2
In cash	61 521.3	335 441.5	545.2
In kind	6 653.2	23 994.3	360.6
Wages	31 180.8	140 466.9	450.5
Social benefits in cash	10 820.3	63 573.4	587.5
Earnings of individual farms	9 174.2	24 759.6	269.9
Earnings from work outside the agricultural sector	4 693.6	47 466.3	101.1
Earnings from auxiliary activities	914.0	6 278.2	686.9
Other personal earnings	11 391.5	76 891.4	675.0
Per inhabitant	1 795.8	9 429.3	525.1

B. Real earnings

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	
	(preceding year = 100)				1980 = 100	
Total	102.4	101.4	113.8	106.5	85.4	103.0
of which:						
Wages	104.5	97.1	112.9	106.3	67.7	65.6
Social benefits						
In cash	105.1	102.0	111.5	108.6	85.7	143.4
Per inhabitant	101.7	100.8	113.2	106.2	85.1	96.1

Per inhabitant: in 1,000 zlotys without sickness contributions paid from wages.

As at 30 June 1992 Poland's foreign debt amounted to:

In convertible currency: US$ 48.2 billion
In non-convertible currency: 4.8 billion transfer roubles.

UNEMPLOYMENT

7. The unemployment rate is shown in the following table:

Period	Registered unemployed persons		As percentage of the active population
	Total, in thousands	Women	
1990 XII	1 126.1	573.7	6.3
1991 VI	1 574.1	819.7	8.6
VII	1 749.9	912.0	9.6
VIII	1 854.0	972.3	10.1
IX	1 970.9	1 033.7	10.7
X	2 040.4	1 077.5	11.1
XI	2 108.3	1 113.6	11.4
XII	2 155.6	1 134.1	11.8
1992 I	2 211.8	1 160.8	12.1
II	2 245.6	1 174.2	12.4
III	2 216.4	1 161.5	12.1
IV	2 218.4	1 165.9	12.2
V	2 228.6	1 171.6	12.3
VI	2 296.7	1 220.4	12.6
VII	2 409.1	1 286.3	13.1
VIII	2 457.1	1 314.3	13.4
A	132.5	135.2	132.7
B	102.0	102.2	102.3

A. Equivalent period in the preceding year = 100

B. Preceding period = 100

Period	Of total unemployed persons in thousands			
	Previously unemployed	Dismissed for economic reasons	Receiving vocational training	Vacancies in thousands
1990 XII	.	183.1	1.8	54.1
1991 VI	.	315.3	4.8	47.4
VII	.	357.3	4.0	48.9
VIII	.	389.1	4.6	51.4
IX	.	422.1	7.0	48.0
X	.	452.1	8.4	40.2
XI	.	476.8	8.2	35.3
XII	.	498.0	6.3	29.1
1992 I	382.1	519.8	3.9	29.9
II	381.5	538.0	2.8	24.9
III	404.6	539.5	2.5	26.8
IV	416.2	546.8	2.6	27.7
V	414.3	559.4	2.4	31.5
VI	485.7	565.6	1.2	31.7
VII	547.7	590.3	1.3	36.2
VIII	494.5	598.3	1.6	37.0
A	x	153.8	35.7	72.0
B	90.3	101.4	121.3	102.3

8. Since the phenomenon of illiteracy is practically non-existent in Poland, statistical data do not illustrate the level of illiteracy. According to the relevant data from the previous census, literacy was almost 100 per cent.

Data on religious faiths as at 31 December 1991:

Churches associated with the Polish Ecumenical Council

Churches and cultural associations	Number of parishes or communities	Number of churches, chapels or houses of prayer	Number of priests	Number of practitioners
Liturgical Catholic Church:				
Roman Catholic	8 905	14 335	23 578	35 894 538
Greek Catholic	90	90	70	300 000
Neo-Uniate	1	1	1	300
Armenian	2	2	2	8 000
Old Catholics:				
Polish Catholic Church	91	92	113	54 400
Mariavites Old Catholic Church	41	56	29	24 774
Mariavites Catholic Church	29	16	21	2 992
Orthodox:				
Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church	250	410	259	570 600
Old-Rite Oriental Church	4	4	3	2 576

Churches and cultural associations	Number of parishes or communities	Number of churches, chapels or houses of prayer	Number of priests	Number of practitioners
Protestant and Protestant Tradition:				
Lutheran Church of the Confession of Augsburg	293	328	120	100 000
Reformed Lutheran Church	10	12	8	4 000
Methodist Lutheran Church	41	50	41	2 963
Polish Church of Christian Baptists	98	68	66	5 037
Church of the Seventh Day Adventists	99	110	86	8 418
Reformed Movement of the Seventh Day Adventists	-	-	-	57
Christian Church of the Sabbath Day	19	5	6	362
Pentecostal Christian Community	25	3	45	1 470
Church of God in Christ	9	5	30	727
Christian Church of the Evangelical Faith	19	5	32	1 460
Pentecostal Church	128	90	224	12 886

Churches and cultural associations	Number of parishes of communities	Number of churches, chapels or houses of prayer	Number of priests	Number of practitioners
Pentecostal Evangelical Community	4	3	9	375
Association of Seekers of the Holy Scripture	25	6	38	388
Association of Free Seekers of the Holy Scripture	88	3	273	2 581
Epiphany Missionary Lay Movement	78	129	407	1 957
Union of Bible Seekers	12	.	16	86
Disciples of the Holy Ghost	-	1	-	1 000
Jehovah's Witnesses	1 296	-	-	99 602
Holy See in Jesus Christ	1	.	7	80
Neo-Apostolic Church	25	8	33	1 160
Latter Day Church of Jesus Christ/ Mormons	4	-	64	286
Church of the Assemblies of Christ	26	30	60	3 471
Church of Christ	12	5	25	4 798

Churches and cultural associations	Number of parishes or communities	Number of churches, chapels or houses of prayer	Number of priests	Number of practitioners
Fraternal Evangelical Union	25	8	23	430
Church of Free Christians	32	27	31	1 117
Association of Christian Assemblies	3	5	-	209
Unity of Polish Brothers	-	1	19	161
Christian Association	1	1	4	20
Association of Evangelical Christians in the Apostolic Spirit	1	1	1	111
Syjon Evangelical Association	1	1	3	19
Islam:				
Religious Union of Muslims	6	2	4	4 000
Muslim Unity Association	-	-	1	53
Muslim Brothers' Association	3	1	4	56
Judaism:				
Religious Union of the Israelite Faith	13	22	-	1 560

Churches and cultural associations	Number of parishes or communities	Number of churches, chapels or houses of prayer	Number of priests	Number of practitioners
Karaite Religious Union of the Far East	3	-	3	200
Zen-Tchogie Buddhist Association	-	1	56	452
Zen Cannon Centre Buddhist Association	-	1	-	41
Karma Kagyu Buddhist Association	12	1	-	-
Sangha Kandzeon Buddhist Association	4	6	2	109
Zen Sangha Buddhist Association	5	5	6	160
Union without Doors - Zen Rinzai Buddhist Association	3	3	-	24
Adzapa Yogi Union	2	0	1	123
International Society of the Krishna Conscience	3	3	89	3 000
Brahma Kumaris Raya Yoga World Spiritual University	12	16	14	138

Churches and cultural associations	Number of parishes or communities	Number of churches, chapels or houses of prayer	Number of priests	Number of practitioners
Others:				
Lectorium Rosicrucianum Religious Community - International School of the Rose-Golden Cross	-	1	-	106
Christian Science Association	-	1	-	23
Science of Identity Institute	8	5	5	410
Life Service Centre Mission	1	1	1	30
New Jerusalem, City of Christ	-	-	15	200
United Church	18	35	-	165
Mission of Grace Cultural Union	-	-	4	85
Steadfast Christians' Association	-	1	9	300

Population data	Total	Urban population (percentage)	Rural population (percentage)
1989	38 038 403	61.6	38.4
1990	38 183 160	61.8	38.2
1991	38 309 226	62.0	38.0

By age category 0-15 years and 65 years or over (percentage):

1989 total		Men	Women
0-15 years	26.8%	28.2	25.5
65 years or over	9.9	7.7	12.1
1990 total			
0-15 years	26.6	27.9	25.3
65 years or over	10.2	7.8	12.4
1991 total			
0-15 years	26.2	27.6	25.0
65 years or over	10.3	7.9	12.6

Average life expectancy:

	Men	Women
1989	66.76	75.45
1990	66.51	75.49
1991	66.11	75.27

Children coefficient:

1989	2.078
1990	2.039
1991	1.049

Mortality rate for newborn babies:

		Boys	Girls
1989 total	15.9	17.9	13.7
1990 total	15.9	17.8	14.0
1991 total	15.0	16.8	13.0

Deaths due to complications of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium (class XI of the international classification)

1989 60 female deaths out of a total 177 144 female deaths
1990 70 female deaths out of a total 179 107 female deaths
1991 70 female deaths out of a total 186 151 female deaths.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON POLAND AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION SYSTEM

General political structure

9. Since July 1989, there have been rapid socio-political changes and intense legislative activity in Poland.

10. As a result of far-reaching amendments to the Constitution, it has been possible to establish all the various rules underlying a democratic State subject to the rule of law, thereby achieving the principles of social justice. Supreme authority lies with the nation, which exercises that authority through its elected representatives in the Diet and the Senate.

11. The political parties are composed of persons who join them of their own free will and out of a sense of equity, with a view to influencing State policy by democratic methods.

12. The highest organ of State power is the Diet, which, as supreme representative of the will of the people, exercises its sovereign rights.

13. The Diet votes laws, adopts decisions defining the orientation of State activity, and exercises supervision over the other organs of power and public administration.

14. The new institution within the framework of legislative authority is the Senate, which is composed of 100 Senators, 2 of whom are elected in each voivodeship (3 in the voivodeship of Warsaw and the voivodeship of Katowice). The Senate examines the laws voted by the Diet (the Senate may propose amendments to a law or its rejection; non-approval by the Diet of the Senate's proposals requires a two-thirds majority).

15. The President of the Republic of Poland is the supreme representative of the Polish State in its internal and international relations.

16. The President ensures observance of the Constitution and is the guardian of the sovereignty and security of the State, of the inviolability and integrity of its territory, and of respect for international political and military alliances. He is competent to order elections to the Diet and the Senate, to proclaim laws and to issue regulations and decrees pursuant to those laws to demand the appointment or dismissal of the Prime Minister, to exercise the right of pardon, and to appoint judges on the nomination of the National Judicial Council.

17. The President has the right to convene and preside over meetings of the Council of Ministers in order to consider affairs of particular importance. He is vested with the power to ratify and denounce treaties, although the ratification of treaties which entail a substantial financial commitment on the part of the State or the need to amend legislation is subject to the approval of the Diet. The President is elected for five years and his mandate is renewable only once.

18. The Constitutional Court rules on the constitutionality of the laws and regulations adopted by the supreme and central organs of the State and establishes the interpretation of the law in force.

19. The State Court rules on the responsibility of persons fulfilling the highest public functions in the event of the violation of the Constitution or the laws.

20. The Supreme Supervisory Chamber exercises supervision over the economic, financial, organizational and administrative activity of the organs of public administration and enterprises and units subordinate to them from the standpoint of legality, purpose and integrity.

21. The Ombudsman is the guardian of the rights and freedoms of citizens as defined in the Constitution and other legal provisions.

22. The Council of Ministers is the highest organ which executes and manages State power. It is responsible for its activities to the Diet and, between legislatures, to the President. The Prime Minister makes regulations enforceable under the laws.

23. The Council of Ministers is competent to coordinate the work of the ministries and organs subordinate to them and to supervise their activities, to adopt the State budget and submit it to the Diet and the Senate and to supervise its execution, to ensure the protection of public order, the interests of the State and the rights of citizens, to make regulations enforceable under the laws, to adopt decisions and to ensure their execution.

24. The Council of Ministers exercises overall leadership in relations with other countries and in the area of national defence and the organization of the armed forces; it also directs the work of local government bodies.

25. Justice in the Republic of Poland is dispensed by the Supreme Court, the ordinary courts and the emergency courts; minor offences are within the competence of the correctional administrative tribunals.

26. Judges are appointed by the President on the nomination of the National Judicial Council. The main responsibilities involved in the appointment and promotion of judges relate to the competence and autonomous management of the judiciary. Judges are independent and subject only to the laws. The Prosecutor's Office supervises legality and initiates the prosecution of offences; it is subordinate to the Minister of Justice, who performs the functions of Procurator General.

GENERAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED

27. Cases relating to human rights fall mainly within the competence of the courts and the Prosecutor's Office, which have the constitutional and legal duty to supervise legality.

28. The protection of human rights is also ensured by the police, who are responsible for the protection of public health and safety, the detection of offences and the prosecution of offenders.

29. The Ombudsman, who in the area of the protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens ascertains whether, following the action or renunciation of the public bodies required to respect and implement rights and freedoms, there has been a violation of the law, is responsible for reaching decisions in cases related to the implementation of human rights.

30. In 1990, with a view to ensuring more enhanced respect for the legal order, the correctional administrative tribunals were removed from the competence of the Minister of the Interior and placed under the authority of the Minister of Justice. They are now situated within the district courts, and appeals against any of their decisions may be lodged with the independent court.

31. The principal measures available to private individuals lodging a complaint concerning a violation of human rights, including torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, are the right to report the offence to the organs of the Prosecutor's Office, the court or the prison judge, and the legal right to initiate an appeal, which may concern any action constituting violation of the law. This right is susceptible of no limitation.

32. An appeal may be lodged directly with the superior organ; improper or late examination of the appeal carries the responsibility determined by the legal provisions in force.

33. The legal guarantees of realization of these rights are set forth in, inter alia, the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (art. 10), which provide for the duty to inform the participants in proceedings of the powers exercised by the judicial organs, and in the provisions of the Code of Administrative Procedure (art. 9), which impose on the organs of public administration the duty to ensure that the parties and other participants in the proceedings do not suffer injury through ignorance of the law. The same rule is set forth in article 9 of the Code of Correctional Procedure.

34. In accordance with Polish legislation, a person's rights, in particular health, freedom, honour, freedom of conscience, his name or appellation, his image, secrecy of correspondence, inviolability of the home, scientific and artistic creation, innovations and rationalization, are protected by the civil law, irrespective of the protection provided for in other provisions (Civil Code, art. 23).

35. Any person whose rights are threatened by the action of another person may seek an injunction against that action, unless it is of a legal character.

36. In the event of a completed violation, he may also seek redress from the person who committed the violation and, in particular, seek a court order that the offender deposits a declaration with the requisite substance and in the requisite form.

37. If, following violation of a person's rights, a material injury has been caused, the injured party may apply for redress pursuant to the general rules (Civil Code, art. 24). The Code of Criminal Procedure provides for very broad protection of the rights of the injured party.

38. An injured party is defined as a natural or artificial person whose legal rights have been directly violated or threatened as a result of an offence (Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 40 (1)).

39. If the injured party is a minor or fully or partly under interdict, his rights are executed by his legal representative or the person who exercises permanent guardianship over him.

40. In the event of the death of the injured party, his rights may be executed by his spouse, his relatives in direct line, his brother or sister, or his adoptive parent or child.

41. In cases involving a violation prosecuted by the State, the injured party may, after charges have been brought by the public prosecutor and until commencement of the trial in a court of major jurisdiction, state in writing or in the court record that he wishes to act as subsidiary prosecutor.

42. The subsidiary prosecutor is entitled to participate in the judicial proceedings as a party (Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 44).

43. As private prosecutor, the injured party may introduce and sustain the accusation of the offence prosecuted by the private prosecution (Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 45).

44. The injured party may also, until commencement of the substantive hearing at the trial, institute a criminal indemnity action against the defendant with a view to making, in the criminal proceedings, the material claims resulting directly from the offence committed (Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 52).

45. Similarly, the prosecutor may institute a criminal indemnity action on behalf of the injured party or sustain the action instituted by that party if, in his view, the public interest so requires.

46. The protection of human rights has been duly reflected in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland.

47. The principal rights and duties of citizens are set out in a separate chapter, which stipulates inter alia that the Republic of Poland shall consolidate and broaden the rights and freedoms of citizens.

48. The citizens of the Republic of Poland enjoy equal rights regardless of sex, birth, education, occupation, nationality, race, faith, origin and social status (Constitution, art. 67).

49. In the Republic of Poland, women have equal rights with men in all areas of public, political, economic, social and cultural life (art. 78).

50. The Republic of Poland guarantees citizens freedom of conscience and worship, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom to demonstrate, the right of association and integrity of person. Deprivation of freedoms may occur only in legally defined cases. A person in custody must be released if, within a period of 48 hours as from the time of his arrest, he has not been informed of the decision of the court or prosecutor concerning

the arrest. The law protects the inviolability of the home and the secrecy of correspondence (arts. 82 et seq.).

51. The protection of the human rights set forth in the Constitution is given specific form in criminal legislation.

52. The Criminal Code (Act of April 1969) establishes criminal responsibility for offences against life and health (Criminal Code, arts. 148-164), against freedom (ibid., arts. 165-172), against honour and integrity of person (ibid., arts. 173-177), against the family, guardians and young persons (ibid., arts. 184-188), and against freedom of conscience and worship (ibid., arts. 192-198).

53. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Act of 19 April 1969) defines very precisely the rules in force concerning preparatory and judicial procedure.

54. The provisions relating to measures of duress, in particular custody and pre-trial detention, establish in detailed fashion the basis and procedures for decisions and their implementation, and the time-limits and procedures for implementing those decisions (Code of Criminal Procedure, arts. 205-225).

55. The Code of Criminal Procedure also contains a chapter governing the question of compensation for unfair conviction, arrest or detention (ibid., arts. 487-491).

56. The Act of 7 April 1989 revising the Constitution (Journal Officiel, No. 19, item 101) amended the provisions concerning the possibility of proclaiming a state of emergency over part or all of the national territory.

57. Pursuant to article 32 of the Constitution, the President may proclaim a state of emergency over part or all of the territory of the Republic of Poland if such a measure is necessary for the defence or security of the State. The President may proclaim, for a limited duration (no more than three months), a state of emergency over part or all of the territory if the internal security of the State is in jeopardy or in the event of a natural disaster. A state of emergency may be extended for a period of not more than three months, with the approval of the Diet or the Senate.

58. The legal procedures and effects, and the procedure for the proclamation of a state of emergency are defined in the State of Emergency Act of 5 December 1983 (J.O., No. 66, item 197), as amended by the Act of 29 May 1989 (J.O., No. 34, item 178), with a view to adapting the provisions of the 1983 Act to the rules established under the Constitutional Act of 7 April 1989.

59. During the period July 1989 to March 1993, no steps leading to the suspension of compliance with the obligations resulting from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Convention were taken.